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February 2, 2012

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Susan Hedman  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

**RE: Superfund Alternative Site (SAS), Pines, Indiana  
EPA ID# INN000508071**

Dear Dr. Hedman:

I represent People in Need of Environmental Safety (PINES), the community organization selected to receive TAP funding in the above-referenced matter. Unrelated to TAP activities and without using TAP funds, a PINES group member, Larry Jensen, performed an independent, radiation sampling survey and extensive report in 2009. Both were submitted to EPA at that time. The survey and report reveal the presence of radioactive contaminants above acceptable risk levels likely associated with the Yard 520 Superfund site.

As you may know, Mr. Jensen is a Certified Health Physicist who worked for 25 years with Region V as a Superfund Radiation Expert and Regional Radiation Risk Assessor. As such, he has extensive expertise and experience in assessing radiation from contaminated sites such as Yard 520. Nevertheless, Region V has largely ignored this compelling evidence of a serious health threat to the community and has responded only, superficially, with the report of a contractor who clearly lacks understanding of the issue.

Accordingly, I urge you to direct Region V to conduct a thorough review of both the contractor's and Mr. Jensen's work as requested and described in more detail by PINES in the attached letter. Your prompt action will go a long way toward rebuilding the community's trust in EPA – trust that has been lost due to past funding issues and the seemingly PRP-favored RI/FS process.

Thank you for your attention and prompt response. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Ferraro".

Kim E. Ferraro, Esq.  
Director of Agriculture and Water Policy  
Hoosier Environmental Council  
Email: [keferraro@hecweb.org](mailto:keferraro@hecweb.org)

January 27, 2012

Dr. Susan Hedman  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Dr. Hedman:

The PINES Group, Pines, Indiana, established in 2009 that there was extensive radioactive contamination throughout the Town of Pines, Indiana. It is suspected that this is due to coal ash, probably bottom ash, associated with Yard 520, a Superfund site.

PINES wrote an extensive report on the radiation sampling survey it completed in 2009 and provided this to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 (USEPA5) in October 2009. The report showed pervasive contamination throughout the Town of Pines at levels that were statistically above background radiation levels. Although an informal discussion with the Remedial Project Manager at that time, Tim Drexler, and the Regional Radiation Expert, Gene Jablonowski followed subsequently, there was never any independent, onsite, validation by USEPA5.

It was not until October, 2011, that a formal USEPA5 response on this survey was sent to PINES. This consisted of a badly flawed contractor's report showing their lack of fluency with environmental radiation. PINES provided to current USEPA Regional Project Manager, Matt Ohl, a detailed response to this report at the October, 2011, USEPA5 availability session held at the Michigan City Public Library. To date, no response to PINES' comments have been forthcoming from the USEPA.

Subsequent to the sampling survey completed in 2009, a risk assessment was completed by PINES for gamma ray/ X-ray exposure of citizens in 2010 which showed the morbidity plus mortality risks are on the order of  $10^{-3}$ ; substantially above  $10^{-4}$  which is the upper limit of acceptable risk in the National Contingency Plan.

PINES believes the radioactive contaminants are associated with coal bottom ash and the Yard 520 Superfund Site. The contamination seems to be pervasive in Pines, as shown by Figure 3-18 in the Yard 520 Remedial Investigation.

PINE's sampling measurements, and subsequent health risk assessment, were completed by a former USEPA5 Certified Health Physicist (Larry Jensen) with a 25 year career as USEPA5 Superfund Radiation Expert and Regional Radiation Risk Assessor. Larry has extensive experience with urban contamination for such sites as West Chicago and Chicago, Streeterville. He has received 2 bronze medals and a gold medal for his work on these sites.

PINES is reaching out to you as Regional Administrator reiterating its request for investigation of this situation. In this request we are joined by both Save the Dunes Conservation Fund and Hoosier Environmental Council.

Specifically, we are requesting that the recommendations in our 2009 survey report be enacted:

- \* Confirmation of the PINES data,
- \* Determination of the soil component(s) that led to the elevated gamma-ray count rates,
- \* Determination of the gamma-ray emitters by isotope,
- \* Determination of the isotopic concentration of the gamma-ray emitters, and
- \* Determination if radionuclides covered by the Drinking Water Act are also contaminating Pines wells, ground water and underground aquifers.

If these relevant isotopes include radium-226 then indoor radon measurements should also be made in Pines homes.

Your assistance in this critical matter would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

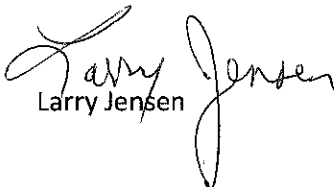


Paul Kysel  
President PINES Group



Nicole Barker  
Executive Director Save the Dunes Conservation Fund

Kim Ferraro, Esq.  
Water and Agriculture Policy Director  
Hoosier Environmental Council



Larry Jensen